

SITUATION REPORT NO. 7
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: June 26, 2002 TIME: 1:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires - Dry conditions in areas of high fuel content have increased the potential for fire and drought throughout North Dakota.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities and two injuries, both of which occurred during response to rural fires.
3. DAMAGES: A fire started approximately 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, in the McLean Bottoms area of Emmons County, west of ND Highway 1804, close to the Emmons/Burleigh County line. The United State Army Corps of Engineers owns the land but leases it to State Game and Fish. The Bismarck Rural Fire Department extinguished the northern portion of the blaze extending into Burleigh County. Due to safety concerns, State Game and Fish officials and personnel from the Hazelton Fire Department decided not to send firefighters and equipment into that part of the fire located in Emmons County. On June 20, the fire had almost extinguished itself when winds caused it to flare again. A back burn was started and by 7:00 p.m. the fire was considered contained but personnel from the Bismarck Rural Fire Department and State Game and Fish monitored the situation through Friday, June 21. Between 700 and 800 acres were burned

For the week ending June 23, the USDA-ND-Crop Report indicated 10 percent of average topsoil moisture supplies in North Dakota rated very short, 18 percent was listed as short, 61 percent was adequate, and 11 percent was in the surplus category.

The Rangeland Fire Index for Wednesday, June 26, will be in the high category over extreme south central North Dakota and low to medium for the remainder of the state.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Logan County Commission issued an emergency drought declaration on June 17.

Media outlets have provided segments in regard to fireworks safety as we approach the July 4 celebration.

On Thursday, June 20, the North Dakota Interagency Dispatch Center sent a structure protection specialist from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), one United States Forest Service (USFS) Helicopter Module consisting of four people and one USFS interagency representative to assist fire fighting efforts in Colorado. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) handcrews from Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and Spirit Lake Nation were sent help fight Colorado forest fires on Sunday, June 23. On Monday, June 24, two emergency medical technicians from the USFWS were sent to help firefighters in Arizona and one National Park Service (NPS) engine was dispatched to a fire in Montana. One Interagency Type II handcrew was deployed on Tuesday, June 25, to work the fires in Colorado.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from the previous report.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide is posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Information regarding fire weather forecasts can be found on the National Weather Service (NWS) web site at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bis/fire.htm>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director